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MAR 1 0 1978

FBIS -LAT-78-40
Tuesday
28 February 1978
Vol VI No 40

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

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LA NACION ATTACKS CHILE'S ATTITUDE ON TALKS

PY232123Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Editorial: "The Negotiations with Chile"]

[Text] First of all, we must realize the basic fact that the southern border conflict with Chile has finally been put in the area of direct negotiations. This alone confirms the clear purpose of our government, whatever the final outcome of the negotiations.

Chile's reluctance to accept negotiations has been obvious and this attitude has been manifested by closely adhering to the letter of the law. Even now, Chile seems to have forgotten that although the law has an unquestionable value for civilized international coexistence, it cannot disregard reason, because international law itself cannot overpower, in matters of pacts and treaties, the will of nations. In view of the unfortunate Beagle arbitration award decision, Argentina--without holding a weaker legal position--has asked Chile to become a conscientious nation and restore, through reason and on the basis of equality, the principles which have historically governed the fraternal coexistence of their respective sovereignties.

It is easy to see that Chile considers the southern border dispute as a legal case, with appeal of the arbitration always in mind. It was like this before and after the Beagle decision and we have to understand that it will be difficult for Chile to get rid of that strategy when it has been awarded the decision.

However, the pervading diplomatic strategy did not stop the Chilean Government from exercising the necessary political wisdom and agreeing to negotiate, thereby reluctantly recognizing our supporting rationale. This step was taken by Pinochet on his own initiative when he met General Videla. There is no doubt that the road between El Plumerillo [Mendoza] and El Tepual [Puerto Montt] has been guided by the idea of appeasement and that as a basis for understanding, this cannot go much beyond formulation of the status quo necessary as a starting point for a thorough discussion.

Therefore, it is not surprising or displeasing that the instigator of the appeasement himself, General Pinochet, tried in his unexpected speech at El Tepual to erase with his elbow what he had just signed with his hand. This is understandable in view of the strategy which Chilean domestic sectors so noticeably demand. However, he has not been able to prevent--apart from the fact that his impoliteness was worse than his lack of protocol since he was the host--the feeling of duplicity, which made us recall the time when General Pinochet spoke of the "dignity" of nations which has made this column ponder over the concept of dignity which equally involves honor and honesty.

In the meantime, it is worth underscoring a point which under no circumstance can pass unnoticed to anyone: Chile has decided to sit at the negotiating table and this alone has a significance independent of the final outcome of the negotiations which are about to begin. This is the essential achievement of the Argentine effort.

NOGUES ENDS TALKS ON CORPUS, LEAVES FOR ASUNCION

PY2418192 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2205 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb--When seeing his Paraguayan colleague off, the Argentine foreign minister stated that relations between the two countries are the best and that there was no disagreement regarding their interpretation of the treaties during the talks on the trilateral meeting, whose date will be announced by Minister Nogues in Asuncion on Friday afternoon or on Saturday.

Alberto Nogues left for Paraguay at 1725, and Rear Adm Oscar Montes saw him off at Jorge Newbery airport.

At the end of a private meeting, Nogues briefly talked with newsmen and stated that the negotiations were aimed at establishing a legal basis for the Corpus project.

When Nogues was asked how a legal basis could be established before the technical aspects being reviewed within the current trilateral negotiations are cleared up, he answered that the issue was discussed in the talks held here.

Nogues concluded by stating that he did not know that the Brazilian foreign minister had stated that the dam on the Monday River--flowing into the Parana River--should be subject to the accomplishment of larger projects, and he indicated the need to become familiar with the nature of this project.

Regarding the heights of Itaipu and Corpus, Foreign Minister Montes stated that it is too early to speak of this issue, since this must be discussed at the trilateral meetings; but he was optimistic that an appropriate solution will be found.

At the military section of Jorge Newbery airport, just before leaving for Asuncion, Nogues stated that his talks with Montes were very cordial and that they dealt with bilateral relations and the trilateral meeting in Asuncion.

Regarding his meeting with President Videla, he called it extremely cordial and thanked the president for the opportunity for this meeting, which showed the high degree of friendship between the two countries.

Regarding the Paraguayan president's visit to Argentina, Nogues stated that it was scheduled for this year, but no definite date has been set.

When Nogues was asked whether he was optimistic regarding the Corpus negotiations, he answered that the issue was not dependent upon his optimism; that he hoped for good results, since at the moment the feasibility studies were progressing well; and that the final project was dependent upon the decision of the two governments.

BRIEFS

NEW PLANNING MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY--Buenos Aires, 20 Feb--Col Rafael Benjamin (Piano) was sworn in yesterday as the new Planning Ministry general under secretary. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 20 Feb 78 PY]

FSB'S GUTIERREZ BECOMES PEREDA'S FIRST OPPONENT

PY250115Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1923 GMT 24 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 24 Feb--Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez, Bolivia's former foreign minister, today became the second presidential candidate to be officially proclaimed for the general elections of 9 July. Gutierrez, 67, was successful in reorganizing the Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) under his leadership. Yesterday, the FSB proclaimed him their candidate for the Bolivian presidency, along with Jaime Ponce Caballero as candidate for vice-presidency.

Until yesterday, the only presidential candidate was Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, former commander of the Bolivian Air Force and former interior minister, who was proclaimed leader and candidate by a nationalist alliance.

According to political sources, a third presidential candidate could emerge from the opposition under the leadership of former president Hernan Siles Zuazo, leader of a leftist sector of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR]. Exiled in Argentina and Venezuela for the last 6 years, Siles Zuazo returned to the country during the last few hours. However, his public role will depend on the results of private meetings with his assistants and various leftist parties interested in uniting for electoral purposes, the sources added.

BANZER THANKS RETIRED OFFICERS FOR SUPPORT

PY241904Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Feb 78 p 11 PY

[Letter issued by Bolivian President Hugo Banzer to the Association of Retired Military Officers regarding the Topater civilian-military group]

[Text] Maj Gen Felix Tavera R. (ret), president of the Association of Retired Military Officers:

Sir, we have received your cordial note No 029/78 dated 14 February 1978 in which you explain the doctrine of the Association of Retired Military Officers and its disagreement with the attitude of some retired members of the armed forces who, with the excuse of pointing out errors in the political leadership of the nationalist government, dangerously threaten the unity of the nation's armed forces.

While expressing thanks for the patriotic pronouncement issued by the Association of Retired Military Officers and its steadfast support for the armed forces in its decision to constitutionalize the country, the commander in chief extends to all those members of the board of this worthy institution his warm congratulations because with this attitude it is setting a worthy example of maturity, solidarity and patriotism and a great sense of responsibility to all comrades who are retired, many of whom have been blinded by the apparent brightness of political activity.

Very truly yours; the sea is ours by right; recovering it is our duty. Gen Hugo Banzer, commander in chief of the armed forces

FIGUEIREDO INTERVIEWED ON AMNESTY, RIGHTS

FY241945Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Feb 78 p 4 FY

[Text of interview granted by Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo to JORNAL DO BRASIL correspondent Elio Gaspari at Planalto Palace on 23 February]

[Excerpt] [Question] What about a broad and unrestricted amnesty?

[Answer] Only people who are not really interested in a political opening are trying to get this sort of bandwagon rolling. Those who do want a political opening are not asking for a broad and unrestricted amnesty. President Geisel has said time and again that our political development must be conducted in a slow, safe and gradual manner. That development cannot occur overnight. Despite my brother Guilherme's opinion, which was really his personal view and not mine, I believe that amnesty--in the terms being proposed--can even be dangerous for the progress of political reforms. This subject could be discussed under better conditions at a later time, and bringing it up now only creates trouble on the way toward a political opening. They are trying to push it too fast, and this is a mistake.

[Question] And if we cannot have an amnesty, what can we have?

[Answer] The question calls for a better clarification. Frequently, one believes that a given political mechanism is applicable, only to realize later that it is technically impractical. Nevertheless, one can in general admit the idea that there should be no restriction on the election of citizens who have completed their term of punishment. Constitutional Article 185--whereby those who have their political rights canceled become ineligible for elective office--can be changed, as a first step.

Another step, of course, can be a review of punishments. This idea is fine with me, but I have information that this is technically unviable. We will see what is possible. The fundamental point is that punishment reviews and the question of those who have had their political rights suspended should be understood as only parts of a broader process, not immediate steps or an end in themselves. Broad and unrestricted amnesty would be the ultimate step, and it just cannot be taken.

[Question] What is your idea about the creation of new political parties?

[Answer] This is not the proper time to talk about that, because we have elections scheduled for this November with the participation of only two parties, so we must think of those two parties only for the time being.

In principle I think that each of the two existing parties covers a very broad spectrum of opinion. So others should be created, but I do not know how many. Let us say that two parties are too few, but the formation of a third party will create the disadvantage of making any one of them into a swing party in any given situation. On this subject I do not have--and I should not have--a definite opinion. The unfolding of the political situation will be the determining factor as to how many political parties should be created.

[Question] Should habeas corpus be reinstated?

[Answer] This is a problem where the opinion of jurists and politicians is very important. It can be reinstated, but the authorities must have time to conduct an investigation free of any obstruction which might result from the quick release of an accused person.

[Question] Are you implying that there should be minimum periods of being incommunicado or under arrest?

[Answer] Exactly.

[Question] Don't you think that if a minimum period before habeas corpus was granted it might provide the opportunity for people to be tortured?

[Answer] That is foolish. I cannot accept that kind of thinking. It is like saying that the doors must not be opened because they could be slammed. I cannot accept your supposition.

[Question] Nevertheless, the question would hinge on reconciliation of respect for human rights and need for protecting national security. How could this be done?

[Answer] In the first place, I find it more appropriate to talk of individual freedom than of human rights, because rights imply duties and the concept of human rights is quite broad.

Freedom can be exercised only if security is maintained. The human rights question is being bandied about too much. Human rights must be dealt with in their broadest meaning, and the reconciliation of individual freedom with national security must be brought about through the law.

[Question] Do you consider yourself a liberal?

[Answer] I am in the style in which one can be a liberal these days. However, I do not believe in the classical liberal democracy. The world's ideological picture is quite complex and conventional liberalism has been outmoded. I believe that I have a liberal position regarding various questions.

[Question] Which questions?

[Answer] Individual freedom and freedom to associate, for instance.

[Question] Do you believe that the Brazilian citizen has enough individual freedom in his country today?

[Answer] Undoubtedly. There is freedom for everyone, except for those who violate the laws.

[Question] Aren't there cases in which the legal authorities do not respect the individual's freedom?

[Answer] There are, as in any other country in the world. This is an anomaly which must be fought, even knowing that it is a widespread anomaly. Even countries which can be looked at as havens for human rights have everyday cases of abusive authorities. Any police organization is abusive, but the question is how to keep it under control.

[Question] At a quick glance, Brazil's main problems today are subversion, corruption and incompetence. Would you agree?

[Answer] True, we have those three problems, which are malignant. Trying to find out which one is the worst is like trying to find out whether malaria, schistosomosis or Chagas disease is the worst in Brazil.

[Question] Have corruption and incompetence been increasing?

[Answer] I do not believe so. They have been the same ever since Cabral discovered Brazil. However, they are not widespread and they are not treated with tolerance. We fight against corruption and incompetence, but we should recall that never was a country populated only by competent and honest people. Those who are competent and honest must keep an eye on those who are not so who spoil the quality of life in the country.

[Question] You have been in the Planalto Palace 9 years with the AI-5 [Institutional Act No 5] in force. What do you think about the idea of assuming the presidency without having put AI-5 up in the attic?

[Answer] I see no big problem in that, provided we come up with a package of mechanisms to insure the necessary guarantees, without putting the suspicion of individual discretion on the authority who uses it or the eternal feeling of injustice on the part of the citizen who was so punished. A punishment which sometimes is not as just as it is necessary.

[Question] How could that be done?

[Answer] There we go back again to the point where the participation of society and the creative imagination of politicians is fundamental. President Geisel has asked politicians for that imagination.

[Question] Have these politicians exercised their imaginations?

[Answer] Very little. I really do not know why they have not exercised their imaginations more. I do not believe there is a lack of imagination and I am beginning to think that they will try to make more use of their imagination now.

[Question] Could that little use of imagination be attributed to the excessive concentration of power in the president's hands?

[Answer] That is not so, because the president himself has asked for the use of that imagination. What we can see is a poor use of the imagination, which can think of nothing else but the pure and simple elimination of AI-5, the reinstatement of habeas corpus and the convocation of a constituent assembly. Solutions are proposed not as steps, but as ultimate goals of a process. They forget that progress must be slow and that it depends on the politicians, including those in the opposition. The MDB is a party created by the revolution and some of its members at times want to take advantage of that fact to defy the revolution itself. Not all the MDB members act that way, but those who act that way are responsible for the many backtrackings in our political development.

Look at this: All the backtrackings we have had to make lately were forced by someone in the opposition. The government never took the initiative in a backward direction, but merely reacted to the provocation of those who defied it.

[Question] Who is going to be in charge of the censorship after reforms are adopted?

[Answer] Whoever is appointed by law.

[Question] The Education Ministry?

[Answer] On cultural questions I believe it will, because that kind of censorship will be better done that way.

[Question] How do you think that government-businessmen relations should be handled?

[Answer] The government must do what it has always done, i.e., protect free and private enterprise. We must understand that the state today owns enterprises which it was forced to take over or to initiate, in addition to those which must be state-owned by definition, such as public service enterprises.

I believe that the state must keep those enterprises which are related to national security, and transfer the others to private enterpreneurs as far as that is possible in the interest of the economy.

[Question] Do you think that it is reasonable to transfer to private hands public enterprises which operate in the sectors of trade, insurance and financing, for instance?

[Answer] I believe so in principle. We must transfer to private hands as many state-owned enterprises as possible, without exposing the national security. Of course, those which find no private capital interested in or capable of acquiring them will have to remain in the state's hands. We must insure a vanguard position in the process of the country's development for the national private enterprise.

[Question] What do you think of the proposals from several organizations, and from the president of the Sao Bernardo metallurgical union, defending pluralism in the labor unions?

[Answer] I find the idea reasonable. Workers and students must have the right to do everything that is not specifically forbidden by existing laws, and so they cannot engage in politics. Politics belong to the political parties. Look here: I do not condemn the holding of a sumposium to debate political questions in the universities or in the labor unions. I do condemn, however, the appearance of politicians in the universities and labor unions for no other purpose than to make personal propaganda. Nobody can go into the barracks, for instance, to make political propaganda speeches.

[Question] Will your government create some kind of superministry?

[Answer] No. I personally do not like anything that is super, neither superminister, nor superman, nor supermachine. Furthermore, our difficulties do not reside in our organization. We must only straighten out what is not working properly. Just because the car is defective, we are not going to build new mechanisms for its engine.

Opposition Reaction

PY251455Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 24 Feb--Senator Franco Montoro, leader of the opposition, stated today that the first public statement issued by Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, candidate for the Brazilian presidency, indicates an intention to resume the path to democracy. Montoro was referring to the interview published yesterday in the newspaper JORNAL DO BRASIL, in which Figueiredo indicated the possibility of making changes in the law of exception, particularly in the so-called "Falcao Law," which includes the permanent loss of political rights by Brazilian citizens.

There was varying opposition reaction to General Figueiredo's statement, since Montoro himself did not agree with other points in Figueiredo's program, particularly that related to the economy. He stated: "The plan to turn state enterprises into private ones will be thoroughly reviewed, because abuse of foreign firms which harms the national economy must be avoided."

The sharpest criticism of Figueiredo's statement came from opposition Senator Odacir Klein, deputy leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] bloc, who said that "President Geisel would have said the same thing. This shows that the successor will be the image of his predecessor."

The disagreement of economic interests was shown by a statement of a management sector which applauded the announcement that state enterprises would be made private, and the repudiation of it by the "national capital" group, which views the decision as a "danger to the country, advantageous to the spread of the multinationals."

The aggressive Sao Paulo Bishop Msgr Paulo Evaristo Arns declared that he believed in the liberal aims announced by Figueiredo, but added that "the entire legal system must be changed, revoking all the laws of exception one by one and granting a broad amnesty, in order to build a new Brazil."

JORNAL DO BRASIL asserted that Figueiredo's interview was a political definition of the candidate and stated that "it identifies him with the changes which have been expected in the country for a long time."

EXILED POLITICIAN ON FORMING SOCIALIST PARTY

LD241349Y Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report on 21 February Paris press conference given by leader of former Brazilian Labor Party Leonel Brizola: "Brizola Has Formed Contacts With European Social Democrats and Socialists"]

[Text] Mr Leonel Brizola, former governor of Rio Grande do Sul and leader of the former Brazilian Labor Party (the PTB, at present banned), in exile since 1964 military coup, has begun a European tour. He has had talks with various social democratic and socialist leaders. In Paris, where he stayed at the beginning of this week, he met with several Socialist Party [PS] leaders. He clarified his positions during a press conference held on Tuesday, 21 February.

When invited to explain what stage has been reached in the plan, mooted for several months, to form a Brazilian Socialist Party, the brother-in-law of former President Joao Goulart declared: "The idea is in the air. It is linked to a possible redemocratization of the country. As things stand at present in Brazil, we do not have the right to form parties freely. As far as this matter is concerned, there are aspirations and realities.

"The aspiration is the many-sided aspiration of university lectures, intellectuals, young people and representatives of people's movements in the main cities, especially in Sao Paulo, who are fascinated by the idea of a socialist party. Such a party would certainly be rich in cadres, but its influence among the people would be limited to the big cities.

"The reality is the Brazilian Labor Party. The PTB has a long history. Before 1964 it was the backbone of the people's movement. After the coup d'etat it suffered the severest repression. It adopted an attitude of resistance.

"When the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB)--a kind of tolerated opposition front --was founded, the PTB was very active in it, to such an extent that in many places it can be said that the MDB was born out of a simple change of nameplates! The PTB is like a hearth which has been covered over with cinders: If the wind of democratic restoration begins to blow, it will blaze again. The PTB could reemerge as a mass party, but would be more limited as far as cadres are concerned. What we must do therefore is to strive to combine aspirations and realities. The result would be a powerful instrument, able to match the expectations of the people and younger generations."

When asked whether the new party would be socialist or social democratic in inspiration, Mr Brizola declared: "The PTB is part of the social democratic movement. But naturally its program must be updated and revised in relation to the specific realities of the country."

What contacts does he have with European social democrats? He received a warm welcome in Portugal and the FRG. This does not rule out meetings with socialists, as his presence in France proves. In any event, he believes that "at the present time it is very important for the people's parties of Latin America to form ties with the progressive parties of Europe."

What might be the role of the United States--where Mr Brizola recently made a long visit --in the evolution of the political process in Brazil? In American circles the former governor encountered "a significant current of thought in favor of democratization, even among personalities who, both before and after the 1964 coup, helped to create a climate of confusion and crisis."

Finally, Mr Brizola launched an appeal for amnesty--"a pardon which should exclude no one, even if it is difficult for those who have suffered and who still suffer." This would help toward spiritual disarmament," he said in conclusion.

PETROBRAS ACTIVITY IN PERU SEEN AS STIMULUS

PY231919Y Rio de Janiero O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 78 p 24 PY

[Excerpts] The PETROBRAS group, through its subsidiaries PETROQUISA and INTERBRAS, together with a Montreal engineering company, was chosen for the job of planning and coordinating the installation of a petrochemical complex in Peru. The only thing which must be done now is to open the Brazilian proposal and see if the Peruvian Government and the Brazilian consortium can reach an agreement over the terms, according to information obtained in petrochemical circles.

It is known that Paulo Belotti, a PETROBRAS director and president of PETROQUISA and INTERBRAS, will either call for a press conference or issue a note next week to explain the details of the transaction to be made with the Peruvian Government once the price for services to be rendered for the installation of petrochemical complex is agreed to.

Among other possibilities, this operation opens prospects for the Brazilian machinery and equipment industries to fill a substantial volume of orders from Peru. Although the Peruvian petrochemical complex is smaller in size than those to be installed in Bahia and Rio Grande do Sul, the volume of capital goods which may be supplied by Brazilian manufacturers is substantial, and it may even help in activating some idle industrial capacity.

The Brazilian Association for the Development of Basic Industries [ABDIB] has become apprehensive about orders for the next 2 years, because large projects getting supplies from that sector are being completed, thus leaving idle a considerable production capacity. Should the sales of machinery and equipment to Peru materialize, our trade balance will obviously benefit from the export of such high-priced materials. The export of machinery and equipment will be made possible largely because the Peruvian petrochemical complex will depend on Brazilian engineering firms for its installation. The more sensible part of the project, such as the supply of the technology of industrial processes, will be supplied by the advanced industrial countries.

The operation with the Peruvian Government is being considered of great interest for our country. The operation may even include the sale of a projects engineering training course from the Brazilian Petroleum Institute [IBP].

It was also revealed that the technical proposal presented by the PETROBRAS-Montreal engineering company consortium had won, ahead of other Brazilian enterprises (HIDROSERVICE [Hydrology, Hydrography and Hydraulics Services, Ltd] and ENGEVIX [Engineering Studies and Projects, Inc]) and other foreign groups (Mexican, Canadian and U.S.). It was also said that Brazil has some good prospects for planning and coordinating petrochemical projects in other Latin American countries which only now are taking their first steps in that sector.

RUSSIAN OIL IMPORT CONTRACT BEING RENEGOTIATED

PY241332Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Feb 78 PY

[Text] PETROBRAS is renegotiating contracts to buy Russian oil, previously set at a level of 15.2 million barrels a year--5 percent of Brazil's total oil imports. This renegotiation should continue for another 2 weeks, and, according to PETROBRAS, Brazil may import less oil from Russia if the new terms are not suitable.

BOLIVIAN OIL COMPANY ESTABLISHES RIO OFFICE

PY180153Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1418 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Feb--Ambrosio Garcia, Bolivian ambassador to Brazil, has stated here that the agreement for the sale of Bolivian gas to Brazil and Brazilian financing of a development center in Bolivia, is something of national interest and does not merely serve the interests of the two governments. The Bolivian diplomat made this statement at the end of a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry where an agreement was signed on the installation in Brazil of a Bolivian State Petroleum Company [YPFB] office. Queried by journalists, Garcia noted that there are still certain details which must be arranged before the Brazilian-Bolivian agreement on the sale of gas takes effect. This agreement was signed by Presidents Ernesto Geisel and Hugo Banzer in 1974 in Cochabamba, and was approved last year in Brasilia by the two presidents.

The problems which block this agreement are not known, however. The Brazilian foreign minister, who presided over the signing of the agreement on establishment of a YPFB office in Rio de Janeiro, noted that this is "a natural consequence of the strengthening of economic and trade relations which the two countries have experienced in the last few years." He stated that this has finally reached "such a complex level that it demands, for the purpose of efficiency and expediency, the direct presence of one of the most important Bolivian Government enterprises within the Brazilian community." He added that this will help expedite the industrial cooperation and complementation agreement, signed in Cochabamba in 1974.

MIR CELL BROKEN UP BY AUTHORITIES; FIVE JAILED

PY232046Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Intelligence department officials have disrupted a Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] cell. According to official reports, the group was made up of four men and one woman. Intelligence officials detained these persons who are registered members of the MIR political-military group and are charged with perpetrating several terrorist activities by placing explosives in Santiago and the Maipu district. According to an official spokesman, these activities were carried out to subvert public order and to cause alarm among the population.

The detainees, who were put at the disposal of the First Military Court District, were identified as follows: (Rodrigo del Transito Munoz Munoz), alias (Dionisio), (Octavio), (Roberto) or (Ramon), 26, former militant of the Communist youths in Curico, was appointed, in 1975, chief of the [?San] Gregorio MIR 1st sector. At the time of his detention he was chief of the terrorist group. (Jorge Arturo Martinez Munoz), alias (Fabian) or (Maria), 23, is a former education student at the UT [presumably Technical University]. In 1972, he was a militant of the Revolutionary Students Front [Frente de Estudiantes Revolucionarios--FER]. (Angel Erasmo Diaz Romero), alias (Ramiro), 24, former philosophy student at the National University and (Elizabeth del Rosario Olivares Pons), alias (Soledad), (Marizza) or (Sandra), 21, former education and chemistry student at the National University were also detained. In 1970, the latter was a link with the MIR No 1 Political-Military Group, the most important structure of the MIR.

According to the official spokesman, the MIR cell which was detained by intelligence officials manufactured bombs and perpetrated attacks against the branch of the Bank of Chile in the Maipu District in November 1977, [name indistinct] factory on 8 October 1977, and the [word indistinct] office on Igarrazaba Avenue in January 1978. The cell exclusively manufactured and planted explosives.

The spokesman said that this extremist group was organized late last year and that taking advantage of the woman's chemistry training, the group manufactured the bombs they used in their terrorist attacks. The group operated for security reasons in several [word indistinct] spread throughout various Santiago neighborhoods.

Intelligence officials started last week investigating the clues which led to the detention of the group. It was also learned that (Jorge Arturo Munoz Martinez) is involved in the murder case of an investigation official which took place in 1974 and that the police were looking for him through an order issued by the Second Military Court, which is in charge of murder cases.

Confessions Given

PY241912Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] cell who were detained by National Information Service [CNI] officials are being held incommunicado at the public jail and at the women's correctional house.

Maj (Eduardo Benavides), military judge, has reported that the extremists issued spontaneous confessions and discussed in great detail all their terrorist activities, particularly the planting of bombs in factories and supermarkets located in the Santiago metropolitan area.

The military-operation cell belonged to a branch of the organization of the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left led by (Horacio Marotta), who was detained in November 1977. It was made up of (Rodrigo Munoz), (Angel Moya), (Jorge Martinez), (Ricardo Reyes) and (Elizabeth Olivares).

After being questioned by Judge (Benavides), the four men were sent to the jail where they are being held incommunicado, while the woman was sent to the women's correctional house.

Furthermore the CNI has been ordered to carry out further investigations which reportedly will lead to the detention of a few other terrorists.

EL MERCURIO SURPRISED BY TALK OF STRAIT

FY251653Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 25 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--25 Feb--The inclusion of the Strait of Magellan in the coming Chilean-Argentine border negotiations "is surprising," stated the newspaper EL MERCURIO in Santiago today. The newspaper reported that the subject will be discussed by the second commission after the first commission ends its work. The two joint commissions were recently established by an act on demarcation of the southern area signed in Puerto Montt by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet and Argentine President Jorge Videla.

The newspaper stated: "It is surprising that the Strait of Magellan is included in the coming negotiations, since there was no previous hint that there was any disagreement on this." EL MERCURIO recalled that the 1881 treaty granted Chile the entire Strait of Magellan as the basis for the treaty. Chile in turn gave up its legitimate rights to the greater part of Patagonia.

Argentine proposals, therefore, should only be related to communications and transportation through the strait between the country which owns that waterway and the neighboring country, concluded EL MERCURIO.

MEETING OF ARGENTINE ADMIRALS SOURCE OF CONCERN

FY241333Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Santiago--Local sources have said they were surprised by the number of Argentine admirals and navy commanders who attended a navy ceremony in Bahia Blanca to relieve navy cadets. According to these sources the Argentine Navy cadets were stationed 2 weeks in Argentina's southern region and the Argentine high command is practically making heroes out of them. The Bahia Blanca ceremony was held last Tuesday and, according to reports, it was attended by Argentine Navy Commander Eduardo Emilio Massera and a large number of navy commanders.

AMBASSADORS TO MEET IN SANTIAGO FOR BRIEFING

PA252040Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1510 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 25 Feb (LATIN)--The 25 Chilean ambassadors to the United States, Latin American countries and regional organizations will be informed of the government's diplomatic policy for 1978 in an 8-day meeting to start at the Foreign Ministry on Monday, it was disclosed today. The talks will be opened by Chilean Foreign Minister Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal. The meeting is to inform the diplomats about important affairs in the country. The diplomats will also be given some guidelines on foreign affairs. Several ministers, including the defense and finance ministers, are scheduled to speak, as is the president of the commission studying the new state constitution, Enrique Ortuzar Escobar.

JUNTA MEMBER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO ECUADOR

PA251644Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1443 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 25 Feb (AFP)--Chilean Government junta member carabinero Gen Cesar Mendoza left today for Ecuador on an official 11-day visit. General Mendoza, who is director of the militarized police, will visit several Ecuadorean cities.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL ACCUSED OF HARASSMENT

PY232126Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1947 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Geneva, 23 Feb--Chile today accused the UN Human Rights Commission of "harassing a small country which is slowly recuperating from a very serious crisis." While speaking during a debate concerning the violation of human rights in his country, the Chilean delegate protested against what he called a "selective, discriminatory and illegal procedure which is against the United Nations Charter."

The report from the special work force which analyzed the situation in Chile "gives an unjust and deceitful image of Chilean reality," according to the delegate.

He emphasized that the accusations "were rejected by the great majority of Chilean voters."

GOVERNMENT DENIES PLANS FOR PRISONER EXCHANGE

PA280658Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0207 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 27 Feb (EFE)--A knowledgeable Chilean Government source today denied that Chile is planning a new exchange of political prisoners, stressing that "in Chile there are no persons with that status." The denial came as a result of a statement by William Luers, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, who told a Jewish delegation that such a measure could help a group of Jewish leaders in the Soviet Union. The Chilean source indicated that there are no "political prisoners" in the country. He added that there is an attempt to attach that label on "persons who are serving sentences or are being tried for violating Chilean laws, such as those dealing with the regulation of arms and common crimes."

REPORTAGE, REACTIONS TO NATIONAL ELECTORAL PRIMARIES

Turbay Ayala To Represent Liberals

PA271334Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1205 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 26 Feb (AFP)--Former Foreign Minister Julio Turbay Ayala will represent the Liberal Party in the June presidential elections following his victory in the primary elections held today in Colombia. Turbay described as a "triumph of democracy" his nomination as the single Liberal presidential candidate.

Without official confirmation of the results of the legislative elections held today in the country, Turbay expressed full confidence in his victory over his rival, former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo. "My victory," he said, "contributes to strengthening my party and, of course, to reaching an understanding among Colombians that will make it possible to carry out the necessary social changes." Turbay added that he accepts his victory "without any illusions or discrimination of any kind." The former foreign minister underlined that his electoral victory should be considered not as a personal triumph, but as a victory of democracy.

Pro-Turbay Liberals Also Win

PA271619Y Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--With the exception of three departments--Norte de Santander, Guajira and Cundinamarca--where former President Lleras Restrepo's sector won, the pro-Turbay Liberals scored a sweeping victory over all other groups, including Liberas, Conservatives and the opposition [as heard], in all other departments.

Thus the pro-Turbay sector consolidated its absolute victory in the elections yesterday in which Colombia elected its Senate, House, Assembly [as heard] and councils.

Turbay Ayala on Victory

PA271201Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Favorable winds are blowing at this moment for Colombian democracy and for the Liberal Party, former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala told RCN today in regard to Sunday's election results:

[Turbay Ayala--begin recording] People resolve their differences in elections and Colombians did so clearly and purely, in a manner which honors our country and reaffirms its legal vocation. It is a victory for the institutions, for peace and, basically, for the Liberal Party. It is a victory for the people. The people showed keen instinct and political maturity, and no one can say today that our people allow themselves to be swayed. Our people voted according to their consciences, and I attribute this to the overwhelming majority of persons who placed their confidence in me and placed a big responsibility on my shoulders. As I said in earlier statements, I will assume this responsibility with democratic simplicity and with the firm determination of one who knows that he must unite the party in order to prepare it for the new June victory. I am convinced that favorable winds are blowing on our side, that Colombian democracy will be consolidated and that the process will receive renewed vigor. [end recording]

Pastrana: Government Bribed Electors

PA272053Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Former President Misael Pastrana Borrero said today that yesterday's elections were not pure and accused the government of exerting pressure on the consciences of citizens to get them to vote for the political groups it favored. In statements to Radio Cadena Nacional [RCN], Pastrana Borrero said, however, that the Conservative sector which he heads triumphed over Alvarism throughout the country despite the lack of guarantees which, according to him, was evident in various regions.

[Pastrana Borrero--begin recording] I wish to point out a distinction between elections day and the electoral process. The day of elections has been characterized in the country as an event of prudence and political respect, and as far as we know this is what occurred. But the electoral process is something else. In reality, the country returned to practices which we believe had been overcome in our political system. The government mounted a campaign of pressure, of bribing consciences, as had not been witnessed in many years. In reality, this is very painful to me because 4 years ago I presided over an event which was characterized precisely by the utmost republican honesty. [end recording]

Opposition Admits Defeat

PA272041Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Feb78 PA

[Text] The opposition forces which participated in yesterday's elections admitted defeat today by the traditional parties. They announced that they will support the results of the election.

The National Opposition Union-National Popular Alliance-Movement of the Liberal Left coalition, after recognizing the victory of liberalism and conservatism, gave particular attention to the votes it received both in Bogota and other parts of the country. For its part, the Front for the Unity of the People evaluated the electoral process. Consuelo de Montejo, one of its leaders, stated in her newspaper EL BOGOTANO that Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala is the single candidate of liberalism.

TERRORISTS CLAIM CREDIT FOR NICARAGUAN EMBASSY ATTACK

PA272011Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1937 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 27 Feb (AFP)--A so-called 14 September Workers Self-Defense Command [Comando de Autodefensa Obrera 14 de Septiembre] today took credit for a recent bomb attack on the Nicaraguan Embassy in Bogota. The terrorist act was carried out "in solidarity with the exploited people of Nicaragua and with the fighters of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN)," according to a clandestine communique issued by the group here today.

M-19 CLAIMS 17 ATTACKS IN 2-MONTH PERIOD

PA241725Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Feb 78 p 3 PA

[Text] The clandestine M-19 movement yesterday claimed to have carried out 17 attacks in December and January. It made the claims in a bulletin delivered to EL SIGLO on the second anniversary of the kidnaping of labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado Martinez.

In the four-page bulletin, the 19 April movement claims to have carried out attacks in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Pereira, Manizales, Yumbo and Duitama. It announces that it will continue its efforts "alongside the people" through similar attacks in other departmental capitals. According to investigative services consulted about the clandestine communique, the M-19 has three fronts, based in Bogata, Cali and Medellin, from which it deploys its members to neighboring cities and municipalities.

Yesterday, 15 February, marked the second anniversary of the kidnaping of Jose Raquel Mercado Martinez, president of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia, who was assassinated by the M-19 in the early morning hours of 18 April.

The main article of Bulletin No 29 issues an appeal for unity among leftist groups and, after admitting that this unity is practically impossible to achieve under present circumstances, urges that "we strike together even though we are divided at the moment."

The attacks which the M-19 claims, several of which had originally been attributed to the Pedro Leon Arboleda squad of the Popular Liberation Army, are the following: December 23: Two M-19 squads took over a truck belonging to the warehouses and distributed toys among the inhabitants of a southeastern sector of Bogota. December 29: Three squads took over a chicken truck and distributed the chickens in the San Luis sector. On the same date, an M-19 group set up three propaganda bombs. January 2: Squads from the clandestine organization broke into the 14th floor of the Amaru Hotel of Medellin where the management and workers of Peldar were negotiating. In a simultaneous action in Bogota, a squad placed a propaganda bomb in the Peldar offices in the Grancolombiano building. January 12: A squad went to the Chec [not further identified] labor assembly in Manizales and set up a sign calling for solidarity. January 13: The M-19 took over a bus in Pereira and harangued the workers who were traveling to several factories.

On January 19, the M-19 appeared at an assembly of the National Popular Alliance (ANAPO) in Medellin, reaffirmed its support for a "third party" and called for a single candidate in the presidential elections.

January 24: The M-19 took over a bus of the Sofasa company near the city of Duitama, threatened the company's chief of industrial relations and received a "voluntary cash contribution." On the same date, the M-19 took over the warehouses of Carton de Colombia in Cali, burned most of the lumber in stock and took the watchmen's weapons and uniforms.

January 25: The M-19 took over two Expreso Palmira and Trans-Yumbo buses. On the same date, it cooperated in the burning of the civil defense headquarters in Yumbo.

January 26: shot a policeman twice "in reprisal for the brutal repression and assassination of a student and a worker.

January 27: The M-19 machinegunned the door of the home of Cali Mayor Carlos Aruel Nieto. On the same date the organization dynamited the pipe lines of the Dosquebradas plant in Pereira.

January 28: The M-19 publicity organ distributed eight propaganda bombs throughout Bogota.

GENERAL STRIKE PARTIALLY PARALYZES BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

PA271639Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP)--A 2-day general strike began in Peru today and is being totally supported in the industrial sectors of suburban Lima. The strike was called by the communist labor central [presumably the General Confederation of Workers of Peru] and extreme leftist organizations, which are demanding the reinstatement of dismissed workers and the repatriation of exiles.

Activities were limited this morning in the capital. Some principal banking offices are operating under police protection and with reduced personnel, but the large majority of bank branches were closed while various commercial establishments began opening for business.

Transportation services operated by the state functioned normally under police protection. Private bus service was cut by 50 percent.

Some roads on the outskirts of Lima were blocked by tree trunks and burning tires but police removed the debris in order to allow vehicles to use the streets.

Activities at the Lima-Callao international airport were normal, while the large area of Comas in suburban Lima was without transportation.

Labor Ministry Communique

PA280432Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0412 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP)--The Ministry of Labor has declared illegal a 48-hour strike begun today in Peru by leftist labor unions. An official communique released tonight stated that the ministry declared improper the (?staging) of the strike called by the General Confederation of Workers of Peru last week. The communique added that, despite the declaration of impropriety, "some workers still went on strike." Therefore, the communique went on, "the strike that is being staged by some workers is hereby declared illegal and they are strongly urged to return to work."

A local television report also noted that 8,581 industrial workers have gone on strike. They represent 5 percent of the industrial labor force. The report noted that 20 firms went on a complete stoppage and seven went on a partial stoppage. Nine percent of all firms are on strike.

Interior Minister's Remarks

PA280228Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0042 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP)--Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros said here today that the 48-hour strike decreed by the leftist unions "has been a clear failure." He added that only 6,200 union workers obeyed the strike order. He issued a call to the labor sectors to continue supporting the government as they did today by refusing to adhere to the strike.

The minister reported that 185 strikers were arrested today. He indicated that those arrested include 20 union leaders. He added that they were not arrested for participating in the strike but for participating in acts of violence or inciting same.

From another quarter, it has been reported on television that the strike was not supported by the powerful Metallurgical Industry Union.

Further Details

PA2813Z6Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1154 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 28 Feb (LATIN)--The government reiterated last night the "illegality" of the 48-hour "national stoppage" that is scheduled to end today.

On the first day of the strike decreed by the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) to demand labor and political amnesty, there were confrontations between civilians and the military--which are unusual here--which caused normal traffic to be interrupted for several hours, from noon until the afternoon. On the other hand, the state ESI-PERU NEWS AGENCY said that work had been carried out in "almost normal" fashion in the interior of the country except for banks, although some of these provided limited service to the public.

The confrontations occurred in densely populated sectors close to metallurgical, textile and plastics centers, many of which halted their activities because of the absence of workers who either did not wish to report to work or were unable to reach their jobs because of the lack of transportation facilities. Traffic was blocked on Tupac Amaru and Argentina avenues, which lead to the Comas and Independence districts and to the main factories, respectively, because workers and university students had piled stones, sticks and burned tires on those streets. However, the major incidents occurred on Atahualpa Avenue, which leads to the districts of San Juan de Miraflores, Ciudad de Dios and Villa Maria del Triunfo. The police had to act vigorously to disperse some 200 demonstrators who had taken over the bridge leading to these areas on the outskirts of Lima. Many persons were arrested.

In downtown Lima, work was carried out almost normally. Most commercial establishments, restaurants and supermarkets were open to the public. Hours later, movie houses operated without problems. Almost all public transportation services were operating. Buses and minibuses stopped operating for a few hours but, as things returned to normal, the drivers resumed their activities.

Meanwhile, those who were arrested for participation in the confrontations continued to be interrogated by state security agents. It is presumed that, as on other occasions, they will be turned over to the Second Judiciary Police District for trial.

The people of Lima, encouraged by the limited success of the strike, were preparing today to return in greater numbers to their jobs, after the government had promised that the armed forces and the police would guarantee their safety.

The government also used helicopters to keep watch on the areas where incidents took place, since yesterday two vehicles were set on fire and others were stoned. One of the vehicles was carrying German, Swedish and Argentine tourists, some of whom suffered slight injuries and were treated at the San Juan de Dios Hospital.

CTRP PROPOSES COMMISSION ON DISMISSED WORKERS

PY241655Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The Central Organization of Peruvian Revolution, CTRP, has proposed that President Morales Bermudez create a tripartite commission to solve the problems of dismissed workers who want to return to work. The commission would be made up of members of the national central unions, employers and government officials. The proposal was submitted to the chief of state at Government House.

President Morales Bermudez told the CTRP leaders to convey his personal greetings to all workers. He also expressed his belief that this union will contribute to the creation of an environment of peace and confidence.

During the meetings, a leader of the union conveyed to the president the encouragement of CTRP members during (?this time) of national crisis.

GENERAL EXPECTS NEW MEETING WITH ECUADOR

PY251625Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Peru and Ecuador are in frank communication with each other and are following the right road. This comment was made yesterday by Gen Pedro Richter Prada, president of the armed forces joint staff. He expected that a new meeting would take place at any moment with Gen (Raul Cabrera Sevilla), chief of the Ecuadorean Army staff.

He stressed: At that meeting we will not have to discuss any problems or incidents. He asserted that relations on a military level between the two countries are frank but declined to make any comment regarding the state of affairs on a political level, saying that this was not the business of his sector.

Richter and (Cabrera Sevilla) met on 6 January at Aguas Verdes and Santa Rosa in the border zone.

PERU TO RECEIVE NUCLEAR REACTOR FROM ARGENTINA

PA280340Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2258 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP)--Argentina will provide Peru with 15 kg of enriched uranium to start up the experimental nuclear reactor which Argentina will give to the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute [IPEN]. IPEN President Gen Juan Barreda revealed the information here today upon returning from Vienna where he attended a meeting of International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Board of Governors.

Barreda stated that the fuel and the zero-order [as received] reactor granted by Argentina will arrive in Peru in April. He added that agreements were signed in Vienna to guarantee the operation of the reactor for 18 months. He further stated that a Peruvian-Argentine financial agreement will be signed in the next few weeks for the construction and equipment of a nuclear research center to be located in the outskirts of Lima. The center will have a 10 megawatt reactor.

CARTER'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA REPORTED

PA271948Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter will travel to Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia. He will make a tour of two continents from 28 March through 3 April. An announcement in this regard was made by U.S. national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. Among other things, Brzezinski announced that the U.S. President will make two important speeches on foreign policy--one in Caracas and the other in Nigeria.

Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has confirmed that U.S. President Jimmy Carter will arrive in Venezuela on 28 March. The foreign minister said that economic subjects will be of great importance in Carter's meeting with his counterpart, Carlos Andres Perez. In addition, the foreign minister hinted that the oil issue is the main reason for President Carter's trip abroad.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR URGES NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

PA271959Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] It is necessary to take practical steps to achieve nuclear disarmament and to implement the USSR's proposal to simultaneously end the production of nuclear weapons, Soviet Ambassador to Venezuela Vladimir Kazimirov has stated. Among other things, the Soviet ambassador said that his country is concerned about the unchecked arms race.

NATION CALM FOLLOWING STUDENT DISORDERS

Classes Suspended

PA241742Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The National Education Department has suspended high school classes in Maracaibo for an indefinite period of time. Zulia Governor Guillermo Rincon Araujo made the announcement, adding that the decision was made in view of the current wave of disturbances in Maracaibo. Meanwhile, in Caracas some schools have unilaterally decided to suspend classes, but the Education Ministry has not yet ruled on this.

Four automobiles were burned, several stores were sacked, two youths were injured and many arrested during yesterday's disturbances in Propatria and 23 de Enero districts. At the entrance of La Libertad residential district, the demonstrators burned a truck belonging to a printshop. Then, in front of (Los Teques), another truck belonging to a coal firm was set on fire. Almost simultaneously, another group was setting fire to a grocery delivery truck in Propatria, Catia sector. Two young boys--Junior Jose (Lezama Barranca), 19, and Reinaldo Rojas, 20--were injured and taken to the Catia hospital.

Meanwhile, National Defense Minister Gen Fernando Paredes Bello has stated that it is the responsibility of the regional police departments to control the public disorders which have taken place in Caracas and in the country's interior. It is the local police departments' responsibility and not that of the armed forces, he emphasized. Concerning the arrests which have been made, the defense minister said that four persons are being interrogated by military intelligence. General Paredes Bello pointed out that the police should put an end to the disturbances which have alarmed Venezuelans.

As a result of the recent disturbances, the Education Ministry has suspended classes in several Caracas high schools. An Education Ministry communique has been issued to this respect stating that in view of the disorders provoked by individuals who are not students, the ministry has decided to suspend classes in some schools. The communique adds that some schools are returning to normal and that most of the high schools in Caracas are operating normally.

'Tense Calm' Reported

PA2512017 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0331 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Feb (EFE)--Tense calm prevailed today in areas that in the past few days turned into centers of student protests against the government. Civil and military intelligence officials, supported by the metropolitan police, have arrested at least 12 persons and staged many raids resulting in the seizure of important plans for further subversive operations. The material provides information that agitators were planning to incite violence within the student movements in the cities of Caracas, Maracaibo, Barquisimeto, Maracay, Valencia, Barcelona and Cumana. This was to be followed by bombings after which slogans would be painted on walls urging the people to abstain from voting in the forthcoming elections.

With last night's arrest of an apparently ultraleft Argentine group, whose members were unable to explain their presence in an area where violent disturbances had taken place, the security forces of Venezuela have initiated an investigation into participation of foreigners in the disorders. The source of this unofficial report pointed out that if a link is established between the arrested persons and local leftist extremists, the foreigners--apparently political refugees--will be deported.

It had been believed that serious incidents would occur today at the funeral for Pablo Emilio Perez, a 16-year-old student killed the night before last by a traffic policeman who shot him in the back. However, hundreds of persons passed by the funeral home to pay their respects without incident.

Classes To Resume

PA2719447 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Classes will resume in all high schools today. Classes were suspended as a result of student disorders in several cities in the country. For the past 15 days, the country has been subject to intense student agitation as a result of the death of 15-year-old student Carlos Rivero Pacheco, who was killed in San Felipe. However, everything indicates that the situation in all the country's high schools will return to normal today.

Communist Leader on Disorders

PA2719437 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Acts of violence do not help to consolidate the student movement. On the contrary, they are a tragic hindrance to it, said Communist leader Radames Larrazabal, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Venezuela.

He added that the ultraleftists and repressive police have joined forces against the student movement. In addition, Larrazabal said that his party has set for itself the revolutionary goal of working in order to be successful in this electoral campaign.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES ACTION AGAINST SUBVERSIVES

PA271946Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Promoters of armed subversion and confrontations with the national armed forces will be either imprisoned or killed, President Carlos Andres Perez said during the tribute to Romulo Betancourt in Guajira. The president said that he will turn a peaceful country over to his successor.

The president also said that the budget reduction decided upon by the government will total over 1 billion bolivares. He added that although the oil situation is not cause for concern, the progress of the oil industry will be observed on a daily basis.

MERCHANT, DAS AGENTS HELD FOR SMUGGLING, ESPIONAGE

PA280053Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Feb (EFE)--The Venezuelan authorities today identified Mauricio Battle as the Colombian-Venezuelan merchant who, along with three agents of the Colombian Secret Service (DAS), directed espionage and smuggling activities in Maracaibo. The four men are being held in the San Carlos Garrison in Caracas.

The prisoners apparently used their positions in the Colombian secret police to obtain passports in the Maracaibo Consulate and then used them for moving Colombians into Venezuela. It was also reported that there are charges against them for white slavery. Blueprints of Venezuelan buildings were also found in Battle's business establishment in Maracaibo.

It was unofficially learned that besides being involved in the large-scale smuggling of people, drugs and construction materials from Colombia, they were also involved in espionage activities.

According to the Maracaibo police, the situation of the three DAS agents and merchant Battle is so delicate that, instead of the judicial police, the Venezuelan civilian and military intelligence were directly involved in their arrest.

COMMUNIST VANGUARD ENDORSES JOSE VICENTE RANGEL

PA271938Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] In the Federal District, leaders of the Communist Vanguard Party have decided to support presidential candidate Jose Vicente Rangel.

The party also decided to draft a plan for electoral activities in order to win the greatest number of votes in the upcoming elections.

During the Federal District conference, the Communist Vanguard chose the delegates that will attend the party's congress to be held on 4 and 5 March in Central Park.

CABINET APPROVES BUDGET EXPENDITURE REDUCTION

PA270155Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Feb 78 p 1 PA

[Text] The minister of information and tourism has given newsmen a report on what was discussed during a cabinet meeting. Diego Arria specified each point as follows:

1. A decrease in expenditures will be in effect for the rest of the fiscal year as an adjustment to estimated revenue. At the next cabinet meeting the ministers will present their proposals for a budget reduction. This reduction is to include all ministries, autonomous institutions and government-owned enterprises. To accomplish the proposed reduction, the following criteria will be followed:

Vacancies for permanent and temporary positions occurring after 28 February 1978 will not be filled.

No money will be used on travel expenses and fares, except in cases of absolute necessity.

Purchase of materials and supplies will be reduced by making better use of available stocks.

Social relations expenses will be reduced to a minimum.

Purchase of office equipment and furniture will be limited.

General appropriations to cover operating expenses for services not incurred during the present period will be kept at a minimum.

No new services will be created.

2. The present budget situation indicates a decrease in estimated revenue. Therefore, the executive branch will proceed on the basis of Article 28 of the Organic Law of the Budget, which states:

"If a reduction of estimated revenue as against budget law estimates becomes evident during a budget period, the president of the republic, at a cabinet meeting, will order the necessary adjustments to the budget with the exceptions listed in Article 2, after having heard the opinions of the Central Budget Office and the Central Coordinating and Planning Office. Similarly, he will ask the excepted bodies to draft a plan of adjusted expenditures. The decisions will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE."

It was officially established that budget reduction will be 7 percent. This amounts to 2.85 billion bolivares or a decrease of 250,000 barrels [of oil] per day.

PEREZ MEETS WITH SENIOR ARMED FORCES OFFICERS

PA251755Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[By Freddy Balzan, from Miraflores Presidential Palace]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez received at his office division Generals Luis Alberto Aranguren and Luis Andres Gonzalez Mora, general commanders of the air force and armed forces of cooperation, respectively. The topics discussed by the president and the senior armed forces officers were not disclosed.

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LA ESTRELLA QUESTIONS PRESENCE OF U.S. PARATROOPERS

PA242025Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Feb 78 p 48 PA

[From the "La Llorona" column]

[Text] The sudden presence of over 1,000 paratroopers in the Canal Zone is disturbing. We wonder: Are they here to halt the demonstrations so openly staged by the "Zonians" themselves or, on the contrary, do they think the Senate will not ratify the treaties and, thus, consider that with this special force they will be able to halt the indignation of the Panamanian people? Although we are inclined to believe it is for the first reason we mentioned, it would be worthwhile if the zealous Colonel Lopez of the Southern Command Public Relations Office or any other high-ranking U.S. military officer were to clarify the situation. Of course, regardless of the reason, it bothers us that the imperialist presence on our soil becomes greater everyday.

SAMUDIO CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

PA271929Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Panama requires a prompt restructuring of its system of government in order to assume the responsibilities concerning the canal, said David Samudio, president of the National Liberal Party, during a meeting of the party's Herrera Province Directorate which was attended by Liberals from all corregimientos.

A radio network broadcast the Liberals' meeting, during which Samudio said that the country needs to promptly restructure its system of government since, just as it has been unable to resolve the problems of development, without a new structure it will also be unable to assume the additional responsibilities which will derive from the canal treaty. Samudio said that the economic and fiscal crisis with which Panama is afflicted stems from the fact that a climate of confidence does not exist because of the lack of participation by political parties and the lack of a real separation and balance among the executive, legislative and judicial branches. In his opinion, there exists an autocratic regime which affects investment and productive work. Samudio also said that 10 years of political experiment are enough to permit an objective evaluation of the present system of government, accepting its good features while modifying its defects. According to Samudio, the country's growth is stagnant.

For his part, Guillermo Elias Quijano stated that the Liberal Party will continue to struggle to achieve respect for the law and for human rights.

MATUTINO Rejects Samudio Speech

PA271704Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Feb 78 p 6-A PA

["Juzgue el Pueblo" column by Ricardo Lince]

[Text] Last Saturday, the top leaders of the Liberal Party, meeting in Chitre, outlined their objectives as if to make clear to the country that they also have suggestions to make, suggestions which they are emphasizing at this time in which debates are underway for the ratification or rejection of the canal treaties.

Samudio had been congratulated by Romulo Escobar for not attending the Miami meeting. Now the Liberals are acting on their own.

Their leader, David Samudio, explained their political position, which consists of a demand for change in the constitutional structures for the purpose, he said, of granting to the National Assembly full independence and totally restoring its traditional function. As far as the courts are concerned, he called for the raising of their dignity and honesty and indicated that there is a need for a complete revision of the state's economic policy, all this as a result of the binding commitments to be acquired under the canal treaties, commitments which will require serious and planned efforts by the country so that it can respond to the challenge.

Samudio explained the Liberals' objectives in terms of a civic dialog with the national government. However, he did not discuss in his speech the feasibility of the structural changes which they are requesting or the Liberal's position with regard to Dr Romulo Escobar's recent description as a coupist maneuver of the call made by opposition groups for the organization of a constituent assembly to replace the present 1972 constitution and for the establishment of a provisional government.

Samudio also said that the Liberal leaders are touring the country in order to consult with Liberal leaders in the interior and, in small meetings, to discuss ideas, analyze currents of opinion and set the strategies and course of the movement. But the radio station of the central provinces was the acoustic shell which gave a voice to the meeting. The prominent engineer, skillful politician and exacting planner emphasized that the Liberals have not taken the path of subversion. We recognize the government, he said, but we wish to have our right to dissent respected. Let us join efforts in this hour of historic responsibility.

The contents of the speech, which was an open invitation to the formation of a governing bloc made up of the revolution and the Liberals based on a reorganization of the tenets of the October movement, is a constitutional blind alley, no matter how much sophistication is used to present formulas and no matter how much legal wrapping is given to the proposed remedies.

However, since in politics no one knows with whom he will dance during the last song, let us wait until the U.S. Senate has orchestrated the musical score of the treaties so that we may hear the celestial music that will restore understanding, concord, peace of mind and cordiality among ALL Panamanians. For the time being, let us patiently consolidate our canal conquests and cut the ties which make us an embryonic nation. A weak executive would be the toy of conflicting political passions. Only a few weeks remain before the people will know about the situation with regard to the United States and the future of the canal.

DISCREPANCY BETWEEN CONSTITUTION, ELECTORAL LAW NOTED

PA241446Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Feb 78 pp 1, 4-A PA

[Text] Juan Materno Vasquez, chief of the Panamanian Supreme Court, admitted this morning that there is a discrepancy between the constitution and the electoral law which was recently issued.

Vasquez said the difference is that while the constitution speaks of elections day, the electoral law refers to the opening day of the electoral process as the day from which the years of residence at a givenplace of a candidate for representative will be counted.

The Supreme Court justice also disclosed that neither he nor the Supreme Court has the power to change the law as the court does not act on its own but through consultations with judges [consultas de jueces] or suits against the law.

He added that what should be done is to reform the electoral law where it is in error in order to make it adhere to the constitution. He expects this to be done in the near future and said that this action falls only and exclusively under the competence of the National Legislative Council.

SUIT CHALLENGES CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ELECTORAL LAWS

PA250143Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Law No 5 of 10 February 1978, which prescribes measures affecting electoral matters and popular elections, violates Articles 123, 125 and 273 of the national constitution, Dr Carlos Lucas Lopez alleges in a constitutionality suit filed with the Supreme Court of Justice in the name of Guillermo Elias Quijano.

In his suit, Lopez states that Law No 5 of February 1978 excludes the participation of political parties in the electoral process since it does not grant these organizations the right to participate either directly or indirectly. According to the plaintiff, Articles 3, 24, 26 and others of Law No 5, as well as Laws Nos 4 and 6 on the same subject, which were promulgated the same day, all omit this provision.

The suit states that the constitution establishes certain fundamental principles in connection with the political rights of each citizen, particularly in connection with his right to elect and be elected, and that constitutional Article 123 regulates the formation, functions and operation of political parties.

According to Dr Lopez, the present constitution allows for more effective participation than the 1946 one because Article 125 acknowledges that the state may supervise as well as contribute to the political parties' expenses during elections.

Finally, Dr Lopez analyzes why Articles 123, 124 and 273 of the national constitution are being violated and notes that this contradiction may result not only from conflicting wording but also from the system's incongruences.

GUATEMALA

STRIKE OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS CONTINUES

PA272036Y Quatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The strike decreed by the government workers emergency committee in demand of salary increases and for the application of strict price controls continued today. The leader of the government workers has said that intervention of politicians or any other authorities will not be tolerated and that the workers will talk directly only with the president of the republic.

It is possible that additional sectors of the public administration may join the strike. For example approximately 5,000 Finance Ministry employees may join the strike.

The halt of activities in post offices has resulted in a tremendous accumulation of mail, weighing several tons. It is possible that the government will make its first efforts to find a solution to the problem today.

COMMUNISTS ASK PUBLIC TO CAST BLANK BALLOTS

PA271958Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1914 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine communist Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT) today asked the population to cast blank ballots during Sunday's elections in which three military candidates will seek the country's presidency. In a press communique the PGT stressed that "a new electoral farce has been set up in which none of the three candidates represents a popular alternative."

The PGT adds that "we must go to the polls to cast blank ballots. No to the electoral farce! Popular unity against continuity! Citizens: Cast blank ballots."

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUE ON ARREST OF SANDINISTS

PA271952Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Honduran Armed Forces official communique released in Tegucigalpa, central district, on 26 February 1978 by the public relations department of the Armed Forces--read by announcer; SERCANO Network]

[Text] The staff [jefatura] of the Armed Forces of Honduras informs national and international public opinion that in the past few months it has received many complaints from Hondurans who reside in areas near the border with the Republic of Nicaragua that armed groups frequently carry out incursions harming them and causing material losses. During one of these incursions by armed groups from Nicaragua, Cpl Bernabe Corrales died in Las Mesas de Cacamuya, Chaluteca Department.

As a result of this, and in compliance with the constitutional mandate that obligates the armed forces to maintain the security of citizens and national sovereignty within the territorial limits of the republic, the armed forces staff has ordered increased routine patrols in those areas.

On 14 February of this year a patrol on a routine mission surprised an armed group that had entered Honduran territory through the area known as La Leboja, Paraiso Department. As a result of this, Oscar Benavides Lanuje, Jose Alvaro Hernandez and Manuel Mairena Gutierrez were captured. These persons identified themselves as militants of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua.

The staff of the Armed Forces of Honduras hereby announces that patrol missions in border areas are carried out according to constitutional precepts and are not part of any agreement or arrangement with any foreign government. It reiterates its firm decision to maintain continuous vigilance in order to prevent any violation of national sovereignty.

NICARAGUA

DISTURBANCES, ARMED CLASHES CONTINUE IN COUNTRY

Communique No 11

PA2714347 Managua Radio Corporation in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Communique No 11 issued by the laws and public relations office of the Nicaraguan National Guard on 27 February 1978 in Managua--read by announcer; SERCANO NETWORK]

[Text] Citizens are informed that at 1200 yesterday a vehicle in which a police patrol was traveling into Jinotepe was attacked by terrorists who were repelled by the patrol. After inspecting the site of the attack, the bodies of seven as yet unidentified terrorists were found.

The authorities regret the killing of Cpl Miguel H. Sevilla, 24054GN, who died in the line of duty. Another patrol member was wounded. He is recovering satisfactorily at the military hospital where he was taken.

At 1400 on the same day, subversives blocked the entrance to the city of Diriamba, attacked private property, burned homes and vehicles, and tried to set fire to the city's electrical plant. When police arrived to reestablish the citizens' right of free access to public roads, the terrorists who had occupied the city's watchtower attacked the patrol members, seriously wounding 1st Sgt O. Ismael, 23850GN, and wounding another patrol member.

The disturbances, planned by the terrorists with the objective of using threats to prevent people from going to the rally in support of the government, to block roads and to place destructive devices on the roads in order to impede the movement of vehicles, was neutralized by the authorities.

At the scene of the incidents the authorities found weapons, ammunition of various calibers, commando knoves, red and black scarves and subversive propaganda. Police patrols continue to maintain public order.

[Signed] Aquiles Aranda Escobar, National Guard colonel, chief of the laws and public relations office of the National Guard

Military Rebellion Denied

PA2717107 Paris AFP in Spanish 1701 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (AFP)--Circles close to the government denied here today reports about a military rebellion against Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza's government.

Meanwhile, broadcast media did not carry any reports this morning on the aforementioned rebellion, believing that the rumor may have been sparked by a report on Sunday's clash between the army and civilians in several parts of the country, especially Masaya, Catarina and Niquihomo.

Masaya Measures Intensified

PA271847Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The authorities will deal more vigorously with attempts to foster subversion in the cities of Masaya and Diriamba. Pressured by the people, the authorities announce their firm decision not to allow more abuses.

National Guard police patrols are maintaining a strict watch on terrorist elements who infiltrated certain sectors of Masaya. The arrest of these elements appears imminent.

Clashes in Masaya

PA271831Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1701 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Masaya, Nicaragua, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--New armed clashes were reported this morning in this city east of Managua.

The Red Cross reported sporadic shooting in the districts of Magdalena and Monimbo. The latter district, inhabited by Indians, is the scene of the most clashes. A Red Cross spokesman stressed that no request has been made as yet for the institution's services.

Last night insurgents clashed with army patrols in the town of Catarina near this city, resulting in seven civilians and one National Guard sargeant being killed.

Military patrols have had strong support from planes and armed helicopters in clashes with the demonstrators.

Indian leaders of the resistance go about the city wearing traditional masks in order to hide their identities. They are requesting financial help to continue the rebellion.

National air force planes and helicopters have renewed their flights over the city, and military troops are continuing to patrol areas of the city which are still accessible. There are reports about difficulties in leaving the area to go to other cities in the country's interior.

AFP Reports Disturbances

PA271907Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1847 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (AFP)--A popular rebellion gained unexpected strength today in the city of Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, where armed clashes between civilians and the military left some 12 dead this morning.

Army helicopters dropped tear gas bombs on several groups of civilians while soldiers supported by armored cars clashed with demonstrators, reports received here indicated.

According to telephone reports received in the capital, three other cities in the interior--Diriamba, Bocco and Chinandega--are also experiencing critical armed clashes.

Local observers indicated that if such incidents continue to spread the country may be on the verge of a serious civil upheaval.

The popular rebellion in Masaya extended today to the areas of Monimbo, Pochotillo, Santa Roca and Magdalena, where a large part of the population is made up of Indians.

Newsmen who traveled to Masaya indicated that the city is practically on a war footing and that its inhabitants are stubbornly resisting the army. All entrances to Masaya were blocked by barricades which the rebels had made of different materials, including barbed wire.

The reports indicate that at least 12 civilians have been killed and two National Guardsmen injured in the clashes. Three of the dead civilians were identified as Jose Ruiz, Miguel Vazquez and Carlos Balmaceda.

Heavy-duty tools were used by the rebels today to break up the streets in order to block traffic to and from Masaya. Water service was interrupted in a large area of the city, according to the reports.

Government spokesmen today claimed the army remains united in defense of the president, Gen Anastasio Somoza.

Tension continued in Dirimaba, 40 km to the south, where civilian and military elements clashed for several hours Sunday night with heavy casualties on both sides. The city is under military vigilance. The military forces are being reinforced by armored equipment.

In Boaco, a twon of 2,500 inhabitants some 100 km northeast of Managua, popular antigovernment demonstrations were disperesed with tear gas.

Chinandega, 120 km to the northwest, was also the scene of antigovernment demonstrations in the last few hours.

Managua Archbishop To Mediate

PA272210Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2153 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo today announced that with his moral authority he will mediate in seeking a peaceful solution to the state of revolt in the city of Masaya.

Obando y Bravo mediated in the crisis produced by the 27 December 1974 Bandinist attack on the mansion of the late liberal Minister Jose Maria Castillo in Managua.

The prelate announced today that he will travel with another priest to the neighborhood of Monimbo, the main center of resistance in Masaya.

Indian Leader Interviewed

PA280201Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2252 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Masaya, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Eighteen days after a popular resistance movement against President Somoza's government began, the Indians living in the Monimbo district of this city feel "tired," but caution that "will not take a single step backward in their struggle."

A Monimbo leader who refused to give his real name and identified himself only as "Cuchillo" today talked to the Central American news agency ACAN-EFE about how the Indians live now that they are on a war footing.

With a population of some 7,000 Monimbo, the city's founding district, has been divided into groups which carry out the necessary tasks in order to continue resisting. There are brigades that make rope bombs, mortars and Molotov cocktails and other rudimentary missiles to block the entry into the city of the powerful military troops loyal to General Somoza.

Unlike his comrades, who used tribal masks when speaking to reporters, "Cuchillo" talked without hiding his face. That is how one could notice that he was tired and sleepy, but with a will to continue fighting.

"We do not have confrontations with the army because all we have are 22 caliber rifles, rope bombs, Molotov cocktails and barricades. We lack good weapons with which to confront the National Guard," said "Cuchillo," who was sent by his community to Managua to explain the situation in which they live.

ACAN-EFE: How did it all begin?

Cuchillo: We had a 30-day requiem mass for Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. Afterward, we had another 40-day mass. Then the National Guard hurled tear gas bombs against the children. We did not like this. That is how it all began.

ACAN-EFE: Is it true that you are abandoning the district?

Cuchillo: Only the aged and the children are leaving. We, the young adult population, are remaining.

ACAN-EFE: Who is supporting you?

Cuchillo: People give money and food for the resistance. Father Vasquez (of Costa Rican nationality) allows the young people to watch from the church steeple. But the rich people do not help us.

ACAN-EFE: Is it true that you control Monimbo and other district?

Cuchillo: Yes. Nobody enters or leaves without our permission. Not even the National Guard has been able to enter. If the military comes, we hurl rope bombs. If strangers come in, we tie them up in order to question them. Some strangers came to give us poisoned food, and that is why we had to tie them up. Now, people who want to give us food must first taste it.

ACAN-EFE: Is it true that you hanged a National Guardsman?

Cuchillo: That was days ago when a Guardsman tried to pull down the flag of the Sandinist Front. We knocked him down and he remained hanging there.

ACAN-EFE: What districts do you control?

Cuchillo: Monimbo, Santa Rosa, Magdalena, San Juan and the route to Managua.

ACAN-EFE: What is your opinion about the demonstration of support for General Somoza on Sunday?

Cuchillo: We appealed to those demonstrators. We told them man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. How is it possible that they humiliate themselves so?

Regarding the fires that have been set by demonstrators, the Monimbo spokesmen said that they have now changed tactics. They are not thinking of setting fire to the homes of their enemies, but they will burn what they find inside.

Regarding the government charge that they are hordes of terrorists, the Indians reject this charge. "Why did they throw bombs at children?" they ask.

Red Cross Quoted

PA280219Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] Shortly before 1100 this morning, [word indistinct] big trucks [words indistinct] at 13 km on the road of Masaya. The trucks were moving slowly toward the city of the flowers [presumably Masaya]. The trucks carried two large armoured tanks and their drivers. The two tanks were accompanied by [words indistinct] of the special anti-terrorist struggle brigades which were also headed for Masaya. Shortly before noon the motorcade entered Masaya, and shooting increased throughout most of the city.

The people began to ask for help at that hour, and news of it reached the standing committee for the defense of human rights which organized [words indistinct] headed by Dr [name indistinct] to try to find the way to [words indistinct] the people of Masaya.

Intense shooting was audible at 1230, the Red Cross office reported. The sounds of shooting and bombings were heard over the phone. The Red Cross set up its offices on the street [words indistinct] leading to the heavily populated neighborhood.

In view of the emergency situation, Red Cross officials have come to this city to see what they can do. It is difficult for Red Cross personnel to move about, Red Cross President Ismael Reyes reported.

Red Cross reports from [words indistinct] Diriamba: The Nicaraguan Red Cross reported today that it took care of five emergency cases during the incidents in the city of Diriamba yesterday. Some of the injured were taken to the hospital in Jinotepe in private automobiles while others refused to be transported aboard ambulances.

It has also been reported that a number of incidents have taken place in Chinandega between demonstrators and government supporters. The incidents that have been reported took place in [words indistinct] neighborhood. It was noted that about five people were injured during the disturbances. It was also reported that Luis Zelaya, brother of minority Conservative politician Fernando Zelaya Rojas, has been arrested.

Another report says that (?long queues of relatives of the arrested) crowded the central police headquarters today. At about 1000 today, a large number of people assembled in front of the offices of Police Commander (Alesio) Gutierrez with the intention of discussing and securing their relatives' release. From these people we obtained the following names of people who have been arrested in the past few days: Jose Arauca Romero, Manuel Ramierez, Edgar Perez, Ernesto Gamez, Manuel Ramirez, and (Elia) Aquilar Hernandez. They were arrested in various parts of the country while they were participating in minor antigovernment demonstrations.

Masaya Violence; Managua Students Resist

PA2801077 Paris AFP in Spanish 0038 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (AFP)--Miguel Ovando, the archbishop of Managua, left for Masaya this afternoon to offer his mediation in the serious conflict in which the civilian population is opposing the National Guard.

From another quarter it was reported that armored army units opened fire at 1700 (2300 GMT) as they approached the center of Masaya while groups of armed civilians tried to resist them. The Managua Red Cross said that it urgently needed blood donors, but warned that "it is difficult to transport the blood" to Masaya since access to the city has been cut off by barricades. In a report received by telephone before the lines were cut between Managua and Masaya, the Red Cross in Masaya said that the shooting "is widespread" there and that "it is almost impossible to assist the wounded." The Red Cross aides have to walk to the wounded, and the number of wounded is still difficult to determine since the barricades prevent the passage of cars. A short time after this conversation telephone service with Masaya was interrupted (?as was the service to areas) south and southeast of the capital.

Meanwhile, the first refugees from Masaya arrived in Managua after making a risky departure due to the troops' presence and said that the situation in Masaya "is getting worse by the minute." (?According to the sources), water to the rebellious districts was cut off and food has been exhausted.

In Managua the police mobilized combat units at 1730 (2330 GMT) to encircle Ruben Dairo University, the country's largest, approximately 5 km from the capital. In the university groups of students have taken over the buildings and begun to offer resistance with handguns against the soldiers which surround it.

Army Moves on Monimbo

PA2801317 Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Feb (AFP)--Tonight army units are striving to enter the Indian neighborhood of Monimbo in the city of Masaya, provoking a battle that observers described a short time ago as a "real massacre."

At 1900 (0100 GMT) the military prevented the entrance of newsmen who tried to walk into the city, located 30 km south of Managua. They warned that "they could not guarantee the safety of anyone entering the city."

Lawyer Hernaldo Zuniga, who lives in the center of Masaya, reported that "many children and women" have died. He urged the Nicaraguan Red Cross to ask for international help to stop what he described as a "genocide in Monimbo." Thousands of persons remain lying on the floors of their houses while the fighting takes place in the Indian neighborhoods of Monimbo, San Miguel, Pochotillo, Magdalena and San Sebastian.

Telephone communications, cut at 1730 (2330 GMT), were briefly reestablished at nightfall. This permitted several residents of Masaya to call Managua, expressing fear that incendiary bombs "will cause heavy damage at night since there is no way of mobilizing the firemen because of the barricades in the streets."

Newsmen who returned from Masaya to Managua reported that as night fell bomb explosions and machineguns bursts continued to be heard in downtown Masaya.

Meanwhile, the army has forced civilians to cooperate in cleaning up the streets, using government tractors to destroy the barricades. It was reported, although it could not be confirmed, that some persons who refused were "executed on the spot."

Meanwhile, in the city of Ricas, 120 km south of Managua, a group of civilians barricaded themselves in the Church of San Francisco. The church was immediately surrounded by the army which announced that it was going to enter to evict the people.

Indian District Holds Fast

PA280212Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0140 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Masaya, Nicaragua, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The nude bodies of two persons, who the leaders of the Monimbo district affirm are soldiers, were hanging this afternoon in Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Park, which is in the hands of the rebels. The report was given to this agency after the armed clashes which occurred during the last 24 hours. However, Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, chief of the National Guard's laws and public relations office, was questioned about this and he said that "all the soldiers are at their posts in Masaya, and therefore that report is false."

The Monimbo Indian district leaders said that "what is being committed here against the people is serious repression." The statement came after a new clash with National Guard patrols. It was affirmed that the army began to repel the popular resistance with heavy weapons, such as tanks and heavy machineguns. As yesterday, a light plane has been flying over the city of Masaya broadcasting a message from Gen Anastasio Somoza appealing to the community to be prudent and "not heed the incitement to violance from the communists."

"The problem is that after that plane comes a helicopter attacks us with tear gas bombs, which demonstrates the falsehood of the appeal. Therefore, we have decided to continue to struggle to the last man, if the rest of the Nicaraguan people do not decide to support us," said the Indian spokesmen. Using shotguns, 22 and 38 caliber pistols, machetes, rocks, clubs and homemade bombs, the Indians from Monimbo have managed to hold back every attempt by the soldiers to penetrate "the liberated zone."

"The people's jail" in the same district already has its two first guests. They are Agustin Perez and Alfonso Montalvan, supposedly members of the army's armored battalion, who fell into the hands of the rebels. The prisoners, who are concerned over their own lives, have their hands tied behind their backs.

Today public works patrols supported by armored cars and National Guardsmen removed the barricades which were erected by the rebels at almost every corner of the city.

2 Killed at National University

PA280216Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0142 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Two students were killed tonight on the national university campus. About 1820 in the afternoon two young students died of bullet wounds inflicted by troops of the National Guard at Ruben Dario University. They are Jorge Enrique Arauz Hernandez, a student of the school of economic science of the national university, who died of a shot in the forehead. The youth, 25, lived in the 14 September colony of this city. Martin Zeledon Zeledon, a 22-year-old second year student of statistics from Esteli, was also killed.

Dr Virgilio Godoy, a teacher of sociology at the university, received a bullet wound in the right arm. This information was supplied by university authorities.

Young Oscar Arauz Hernandez, an economy student, and a brother of Jorge Enrique Arauz, was also wounded.

We have also received reports that the university authorities are trying to reach an agreement about suspending classes for this semester in Ruben Dario University. We have also contacted the Red Cross, which reports that it has tended several people injured at the university and, at the request of the university authorities, have [words indistinct]. Shots were heard approximately 1 hour ago in the area around the Central American University. We heard sporadic firing when we traveled on the highway to Mawaya.

We have received reports that strict vigilance is being exercised in the area of the national university and that vehicular traffic is being controlled by military authorities. High-ranking authorities of the national university are in the city of Leon, and we are attempting to communicate with them in order to learn their position regarding the possible suspension of classes in Ruben Dario University to [word indistinct] examinations this semester.

We will report further on these [word indistinct] on the bases of the reports gathered by the personnel of Radio Corporacion at this very moment, both in the [words indistinct].

Fire Exchanged in Diriamba

PA280217Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0206 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Diriamba (Nicaragua), 27 Feb (EFE)--Another mild exchange of fire took place this morning in the "El Reloj" district of this city, but no casualties have been reported. The action is considered a sequel of the serious armed clashes that took place last night in this city of some 35,000 inhabitants situated 30 kms south of the Nicaraguan capital.

Two were killed, 8 injured and close to 30, mostly miners, were arrested as a result of yesterday's confrontations.

Managua Area Blacked Out

PA280355Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0335 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (LATIN)--There was a 45-minute blackout tonight in the southern sector of Managua near the Central American University campus. This heightened the tension in this country, which has been racked by civil insurrection against President Anastasio Somoza.

Heavily armed National Guardsmen tonight repidly dispersed outbreaks in the city after repressing student demonstrations in the Central American University. Political observers claim that the energetic military action confirms the tendency to quell any disorders rapidly fearing an escalation of violence.

The Managua Red Cross told LATIN that tonight it posted two ambulances outside the national university and the Central American University, but that they had not picked up any casualties.

Meanwhile, police officers said that they had fired warning shots at the students, but "not to kill," because they had orders to shoot to kill only when they were attacked with weapons.

Further on Campus Clashes, Diriamba

PA280525Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Serious clashes took place at the national university tonight. [Words indistinct] resulting in the death of three students. Reports say that military patrols took over part of the campus and opened fire, killing the three students.

The National Guard intervened after demonstrators burned a Route 17 bus. One dead student was identified as Jorge Enrique Arauz Hernandez, 25, an economics school student. He was shot in the forehead. The incidents took place at about 1900.

There were about 6,000 students on campus at the time of the incidents. Martin Zeledon Zeledon, 22, from Esteli, is another one of the students who was killed on campus tonight. He was studying business administration and worked at the local social assistance board's inventory department. A third dead student was identified as (Merel Prado). No further details are known about him.

After the incidents, Julian Morales (Periaz), assistant to the rector of the national university, tried to meet with the officers in command of the patrols by approaching them waving a white handkerchief. The college official was able to talk to the officers and agreed to a peaceful eviction of the campus. Two Nicaraguan Red Cross vehicles were requested to take the students off the campus.

Students reported, however, that near the university president's office they were forced to leave the Red Cross vehicles and were arrested. It was reported that some students were beaten by the soldiers. It was learned later that the military patrols forced the students who were leaving the university to return to the campus under threats.

The radio station Mi Preferida transmission was suspended tonight at about 1900, owner and manager Manuel Giron (Castillo) reported. According to reports received at the Radio Corporacion newsroom, police officers arrived at the Mi Preferida studios and took down the [word indistinct] of the transmission equipment.

Talking to Radio Corporacion reporters, Mr Giron said that he does not know why his station transmission has been suspended. It has several suits pending for broadcasting news of the strike staged several weeks ago. We have tried to contact the radio and television office chief by telephone to find out something about the suspension of Mi Preferida's transmissions, but we have not been able to locate the head of this government agency.

The court judge's office in Diriamba district has been set on fire. About an hour ago we received a news report from the city of Diriamba that the court judge's office has been set on fire. A demonstration began at 2000. When the demonstrators, shouting slogans, reached the vicinity of the court judge's office, they set fire to the building and all the files were reportedly destroyed.

Military patrols shot into the air, but the demonstrators did not disperse. Military patrols deployed from Managua have been stationed at the Diriamba teachers college.

It was also reported that a jeep belonging to a citizen who was identified merely as Julio Cimora was also burned. As this newscast started at 2200, the demonstration was still marching down the streets of Diriamba.

Communique No 12

PA280559Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Communique No 12 issued by the National Guard legal and public relations office--date not given]

[Excerpt] This morning the police authorities reestablished public order in Masaya, where subversive elements and professional agitators had incited attacks on private property, burning vehicles and private homes, maintaining the people in turmoil [words indistinct] in order to prevent the free passage of people and commiting acts of plunder and vandalism. These incidents resulted in the death of a still unidentified individual who was firing at the patrols [words indistinct] (?several of whom were wounded) and are now recovering at the military hospital. The departmental command of the National Guard in Masaya will guarantee, by every means and power which the law grants it, the maintenance of public order and peace in the department.

[Signed] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, chief of legal and public relations of the National Guard

'Agitators, Communists' To Blame

PA280708Y Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0530 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The situation in the cities of Diriamba and Masaya was very calm this morning after police patrols were able to control the outbursts of violence and subversion which agitators and communists had planned in both areas.

As a communique issued by the National Guard's legal and public relations office says, the army eliminated seven extremist leaders yesterday during an armed clash that took place in Catarina. These individuals belong to the same group as those who have infiltrated certain areas of the city of Masaya and are causing violence every evening by carrying out attacks, starting fires and conducting veritable terrorist activity.

The authorities have begun receiving requests from citizens in both Masaya and Diriamba to stop the extremists and terrorists who do not leave honest, working people in peace.

CHAMORRO'S WIDOW DENOUNCES SOMOZA AT IAPA MEETING

PA272238Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1958 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[By Marcelo Galan]

[Excerpts] Cancun, Mexico, 27 Feb (LATIN)--Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, widow of the slain Nicaraguan newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, affirmed during a speech she delivered today during the meeting of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) that "the dictatorship brutally sets limits on press freedom in Nicaragua."

Chamorro's widow gave a report on the circumstances that surrounded the attempt against her husband, who was assassinated on 10 January in Managua, and said that Chamorro was killed "for causes that compromise" the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

Mrs Chamorro made the statements before the committee on freedom of the press and information, which began its debates morning at the convention center in Cancun, a Caribbean beach resort 1,800 km from Mexico City. Mrs Chamorro's speech was preceded by a minute of silence whereby the delegates to the meeting in Mexico rendered tribute to the former director of the newspaper LA PRENSA who was Somoza's leading opponent.

"Press freedom can exist only within a democracy and in Nicaragua the dictatorship is the one which sets the limits on this freedom," she noted.

Chamorro's widow also said that the administrative apparatus of the "regime opporessing Nicaragua" is used to violate press freedom and the people's rights. She charged that much of the media, mainly radio and television stations, were muzzled by the government, which used debts and administrative errors as pretexts for doing so.

She said that during the strike that began in late January the newspaper LA PRENSA, whose director is now Chamorro's brother Xavier, was totally cut off and that it still suffers telephone and telex service interruptions.

Egar Solis, assistant director of the newspaper NOVEDADES, owned by the Somoza family, told the assembly that his newspaper condemned Chamorro's death, describing it as a "tragedy" immediately after it occurred. "We do not believe that such methods (the assassination) can lead to the liberation of a people," Solis said, deploring the crime. "As regards Chamorro, we were always on opposite sides but with respect and dignity as far as political ideas were concerned," Solis said.

Mrs Chamorro told the press prior to her speech before IAPA that Somoza's announcement that he will resign from power and the [National] Guard in 1981 "is the most ludicrous and ridiculous thing I have ever heard."

"Somoza knows that this will never happen. The family studiously holds onto the presidency. Everyone in the family has a goal and that goal is power. One goes out and another comes in. But if he does not depart from power, power will depart from him," she stressed.

THREE TAKE ASYLUM AT VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA252023Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1946 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 25 Feb--The Foreign Affairs Ministry reported here today that three Nicaraguans have taken asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua during the last 48 hours.

The report indicates that there are now four persons in asylum at the embassy in Managua, that they have been granted political asylum and that it is expected that the Nicaraguan Government will grant them safe-conducts to enable them to travel to Caracas.

Newsman Santiago Meneses Valecillo, cattleman Gilodan Montoya and Pedro Pablo Mendoza Pizzarro entered the embassy during the last 2 days. Jose Montemar Ubeda took up asylum there several weeks ago.

Meneses, one of the best known Nicaraguan newsmen, sought asylum shortly after the National Guard searched his home.

FOREIGN MINISTER TRAVELS TO COSTA RICA 24 FEB

PA241224Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0236 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana Villanueva traveled to Costa Rica today on a mission related to his high office.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that during his visit to San Jose the foreign minister will meet with President-elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio, who will take office on 8 May. Quintana Villanueva will pay a courtesy visit to the Costa Rican president-elect and will deliver greetings from Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

SOURCES RELATE STAND ON HORN OF AFRICA

PA271522Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1409 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 27 Feb (AFP)--The solution to the Somali-Ethiopian conflict can be negotiated only when Somali troops withdraw from the Ethiopian province of Ogaden, it was unofficially stated here today in reliable circles. In view of the lack of official statements, these circles were indirectly responding to recent statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance conditioning negotiations in the "Horn" of Africa to a cease-fire and the withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban troops.

Meanwhile, the weekly BOHEMIA reports that the presence at the government's request of technicians and advisers of countries linked with Ethiopia is not "negotiable."

Queried by Western newsmen following Vance's statements and similar ones made by Zbigniew Brzezinski, principal adviser to the White House, Cuban Council of State President Fidel Castro said that he was reserving for a later time the right to make statements. His brother Raul, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, limited himself to mentioning in a speech the "combat solidarity" of the USSR and Cuba.

But the Cuban sources stressed privately that the actual status of the Somali-Ethiopian conflict solely consists of recovering "invaded" Ogaden territory and labeled as "blackmail" U.S. statements which, according to them, are intended only to strengthen the position of their allies in the event of negotiation.

They added that statistics on the Cuban presence in Ethiopia given by Brzezinski and the U.S. secretary of state are purely "whimsical." The Cuban sources expressed approval of the opinion held by Andrew Young, U.S. representative to the United Nations, who when referring to Angola said that the Cuban presence there could be a stabilizing factor.

Cuba is not trying to promote subversion in Africa, but favors the consolidation of governments now installed, the same sources insisted. In fact it does not even intervene in the South African liberation movements which it assists only by training forces, sending certain supplies and possible economic aid.

Cuba makes a distinction between "assistance" as described above and "direct" assistance given to governments. The latter is the case in Ethiopia, where officially there are "advisers" whose numbers and specialities are unknown.

According to certain indications, it essentially involves officers advising Ethiopian colleagues, army instructors and security forces of President Mengistu Haile Mariam and radio technicians.

In the political aspect, the Cubans recalled that at the August 1976 nonalined conference in Colombo they advocated a "revolutionary understanding" between Addis Ababa and Mogadiscio. They also favored a political solution to the Eritrean conflict.

RADIO COMMENTS ON SENATE DEBATE OF CANAL TREATIES

PA2601417 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The ultraconservative sector of the U.S. Senate has failed in another attempt to prevent the ratification of the new canal treaties signed in September by U.S. President Carter and Panamanian chief of government Gen Omar Torrijos. On this occasion the Senate minority opposed to the treaties resorted to deceitful charges that General Torrijos and his brother Moises participated in illegal drug trafficking.

Despite the illegal nature of the charges, the U.S. Senate interrupted its debate on the new treaties to hold a closed session to examine confidential documents provided the intelligence committee by the U.S. narcotics department. After the closed session--which in itself constituted an offense to the dignity of Panama--the Senate announced that there was no evidence of a so-called connection between Torrijos or his relatives and the illegal drug trade.

The Senate Democratic majority leader, Senator Robert Byrd, said it is time to end once and for all such actions based on second-hand information of dubious reliability.

The slanderous charges against General Torrijos and his brother Moises have elicited very strong reactions from the Panamanian people, their government and the press, which described them as flagrant blackmail designed to discredit not only the chief of the Panamanian Government, but also the process he leads. The visits of many senators to Panama have also been described as blackmail, as they have tried to convince the Panamanian Government of the need to amend the new treaties, which would only strengthen the Yankee presence on Panamanian territory beyond the year 2000, when the new treaties shall expire.

The Senate group opposed to the treaties, however, does not appear to be willing to give up despite its failure in the Senate and has transferred its activities to the Canal Zone, where it incites the U.S. residents into creating a climate of tension that could result in serious provocations against the people and Government of Panama. Part of the campaign in the Canal Zone is the indefinite strike called by the U.S. students in that colonial enclave in opposition to the new treaties and the appeal to paralyze operations in the canal, just as happened in March 1976.

The Panamanian press is exhorting the people not to allow themselves to be led into provocations by the North Americans or Panamanian citizens who, longing for the power they lost, are making every possible move to destabilize the country and create a crisis.

Despite all these maneuvers, there is every indication that commonsense will prevail in the U.S. Senate. Already, for example, the Foreign Relations Committee approved by a 13 to 1 vote, without amendments, the treaties signed in September by Torrijos and Carter. Later, the committee submitted them to the full Senate which, in a first vote of procedure, gave the new documents the 67 votes required for ratification.

The Government of Panama and U.S. President Carter have already warned about the consequences that could result from failure to ratify the new canal treaties. An adverse vote by the Senate would undoubtedly overtax the patience of the Panamanian people and would have negative effects in the relations between the United States and the countries of our America.

FESTIVAL PERMANENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS DEPART FOR BERLIN

FL252355Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2236 GMT 25 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The second group of the Permanent Committee of the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival, which will participate in the fourth meeting of the event's Preparatory International Committee [PIC], today departed for Berlin, the GDR. The delegation, composed of representatives of Puerto Rico, the People's Republic of the Congo, Pan-African Movement of the Youth, Republic of Guinea and Cuba, will join the PIC members who left on 20 February.

The fourth PIC meeting will be held in Berlin on 2 and 3 March with the participation of some 200 delegates from more than 90 countries and several regional and international organizations of the youth and students. To date, 104 national preparatory committees have been created throughout the world.

PRINTING AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH EAST GERMAN FIRM

FL241551Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1514 GMT 24 Feb 78 FL

[Text] A friendship cooperation agreement between the printing firms Karl Marx of Possneck city, the GDR, and Juan Marinello of Guantanamo Province has been signed by representative of the two organizations. The document calls for the exchange of scientific and technical information along with the transfer of technical documentation and qualified workers between the two largest printing firms of the GDR and Cuba.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN MEDICINE SIGNED WITH GDR

FL1251720Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Public Health Minister Dr Jose Gutierrez Muniz and GDR Ambassador to Cuba Heinz Langer have signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of medicine. The agreement's work plan will be in force for 2 years and provides for cooperation between the two countries in the exchange of information and professional cadres specialized in administration, health, psychiatry and orthopedic prosthesis.

CASTRO CONGRATULATES GUYANA ON 8th ANNIVERSARY

PA270447Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Fedel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, has sent a congratulatory message to Guyanese Prime Minister Forbes Burnham on the eighth anniversary of the proclamation the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. It is a great pleasure, the message says, to send you warmest and most sincere congratulations in the name of the Cuban people and government at a time when the relations between the two peoples reflect the high degree of understanding that has been attained during these years of contacts and joint work.

The message adds: We recognize the efforts made by the courageous Guyanese people in their commitment to consolidate their accomplishments and in the determination to construct a more just society for the benefit of all of citizens. These efforts increase the friendship and solidarity of the Cuban people, who have identified with the Guyanese people in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and all forms of exploitation.

RAUL CASTRO, OTHERS ATTEND SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION

FL041136Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 F b 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC second secretary and Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--minister, last night attended the reception given by Col G. Ordhonikidze, army, navy and air attache of the USSR Embassy in Cuba, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. Also attending the event were Blas Roca and Pedro Miret, both PCC Politburo members, Isidoro Malmierca and other Central Committee members in addition to FAR commanders and officers.

Also present at the event were Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Force, USSR Ambassador Nikita Tolubeyev and other diplomats and specialists from that fraternal country. A large gathering of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba attended the Soviet Embassy reception.

RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART MEETS WITH KOREAN DELEGATION

FL241857Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee member Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, met this morning with the Korean delegation participating in the sixth session of the economic, scientific and technical consultative commission between the Cuban and DPRK governments. The Korean delegation is headed by Chemical Industry Minister Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Korean consultative commission. At the meeting, held in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere, viewpoints and perspectives were exchanged on economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

BULGARIAN DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS PLAYA GIRON

FL271928Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister-chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff, has paid a visit to Playa Giron accompanied by Div Gen Filiberto Garcia, member of the PCC Central Committee and Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] vice minister. Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev also visited the tourist centers of Playa Larga and Guama.

The chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff is visiting our country at the invitation of Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister.

VEIGA MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO REBELDE

FL250355 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Service (Radio Rebelde and television Channels 6 and 9] in Spanish at 0135 GMT on 25 February carries live coverage of event marking the end of commemorative activities marking the 20th founding anniversary of Radio Rebelde from the Lazaro Pena auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] building in Havana.

As coverage begins, a library film on Castro's guerrilla units operating on the Sierra Maestra range is shown on the screen. In the background tapes of Radio Rebelde broadcasts from the mountains during the revolutionary war are heard. As the film ends, a television announcer sets the scene by announcing the purpose of the event and explaining that the films shown are the only segements that have been preserved from the days of the revolution.

The cultural portion of activity ends at 0230 GMT, and the cameras return to the studio to wait for the political portion to begin. Coverage from Lazaro Pena auditorium resumes at 0248 GMT. As the curtains are raised, the presidium [illegible] stage where, among many others, the following Cuban leaders are identifiable: President Fidel Castro, Army Gen Raul Castro and Roberto Veiga, first secretary [illegible] CTC Executive Bureau in Oriente Province.

Veiga begins his speech by praising Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, who, he says, were the backbone of Radio Rebelde in its first days of broadcasting. Veiga makes a detailed historical report on the radio station. The ceremony ends at 0347 GMT.

PEDRO MIRET ATTENDS CAMAGUEY ASSEMBLY MEETING

FL272039Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the PCC Politburo and Council of State and Camaguey Municipality's deputy to the National People's Government Assembly, has attended this year's first extraordinary session of the Camaguey Municipality Assembly as a guest. The participating delegates announced this year's goals and adopted the reports submitted by the 12 deputies and 24 delegates to the provincial assembly who were elected by the Camaguey Municipality Assembly.

Orlando Sanchez, president of the municipality's Executive Committee, pointed out that the one and only plan of economic development governing actions in Camaguey Province's capital in 1978 has, for the first time, the characteristics of a law. During his speech, Orlando Sanchez stated that the current increase in sugar production forces the municipality to adopt measures aimed at attaining the proportional growth provided for the rest of the economy's branches.

BRIEFS

SEAMEN TO USSR--A group of Cuban seamen has arrived in the Soviet city of Kherson to study the modern equipment and handling of the new motorship "Onceno Festival" which was built for Cuba in Ukrainian shipyards. The new ship has a cargo capacity of over 20,000 tons and a deadweight of 13,500 tons. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 78 FL]

SOVIET AID AT MOA--As part of the solidary aid the USSR provides Cuba, close to 300 Soviet specialists will be sent to work on important mining and steel industry projects in Moa. At present, 190 specialists from that fraternal country are in Moa carrying out major repairs at the Commandante Pedro Soto Alva mining and steel industry complex and building the new nickel plant at Punta Gorda. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 24 Feb 78 FL]

COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION--A Costa Rican governmental delegation headed by special envoy Rodolfo Solano Orfila is in our country at the invitation of the Council of State. Dr Roberto Mulet del Valle, interim director of the Foreign Ministry's American Department, welcomed the visitors at Jose Marti International Airport. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 78 FL]

DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION--At the invitation of the PCC Central Commmittee, a delegation of the Dominican Communist Party, headed by Secretary General Narciso Isa Conde--the party's presidential candidate--has arrived in our country. The delegation is also composed of Carlos Dore, chief of the party's International Affairs Department, Rodesio Rincon, a provincial leader, and Norberto Rojas, intermediate-level leader. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 FL]

BALAGUER ASKS CONGRESS FOR FOURTH TERM

PA2723022 Paris AFP in Spanish 2233 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 Feb (AFP)--Today, in a speech to Congress, President Joaquin Balaguer in effect launched a campaign for reelection to a fourth presidential term. Balaguer affirmed that if the ruling Reformist Party nominates him for another term, he will be able to carry out the kind of government "that has been his fondest childhood ideal since he has been a public figure."

The president also accused the opposition of not having a responsible leadership and was severely critical of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, the largest opposition party.

Balaguer rejected charges of administrative corruption made by his opponents and asserted that "never in history has there been a government that has managed the public funds with such decorum and decency."

The president then pointed out that the economic balance of 1977 was "satisfactory" if, above all, the negative factors of the nation's economy are taken into consideration. The balance of payments, he added, closed in 1977 at $59.2 million [as received] and he stated that the gross national product went up by 3.3 percent. Regarding exports, he said that they were 64.2 million more than in 1976. Concluding, he said imports had totaled $847.6 million, including luxury goods.

ELECTORAL BOARD RECOGNIZES THREE PARTIES

FL2213262 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Central Electoral Board recognized the Dominican Communist Party [PCD], the Patriotic Union, and the Social Christian Action Movement. In separate resolutions, the electoral organization stated that the three political organizations presented proper documentation to support their recognition applications. Only PCD leaders attended the recognition announcement made by the board's secretary Dr Manuel Diaz Adams. The text of the recognition resolution for the PCD was delivered by Diaz Adams to Narcisco Isa Conde, presidential candidate of that political organization. The leftist organization applied for recognition by submitting signatures of over 129,000 followers last 10 January.

DOMINICANS, HAITIANS AGREE ON WATERWAY PROJECT

FL0821152 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listeners Abroad 2056 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Accompanied by a delegation of government officials, the foreign secretary traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to sign an agreement on the construction of a dike which will divert the course of the Pedernales River, the first joint public project by the two countries in recent years. Dominican Foreign Secretary Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez, Jr traveled accompanied by several government officials, among them, Jose Parias Cabral and Ambassador Jacobo (Pelu) del Pozo, who is head of the Haitian Affairs Department of the Foreign Secretariat. This is the first time in almost 20 years that a Dominican foreign secretary has paid an official visit to Haiti. The Pedernales River dike will make it possible for the two nations to use its waters in equal proportions.

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